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WAREHAM AND PURBECK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1939.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health

E.J. O'KEEFFE. B.A., M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspectors

E. SMITH. Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and
Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board.
Meat and Other Foods Certificate Royal Sanitary
Institute.
(Sanitary Inspector and Meat and Foods Inspector)

A.T. SELVEY. Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and
Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board.
(Sanitary Inspector and Housing Inspector)

Public Health Office,
12a. Institute Road,
Swanage, Dorset.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Wareham and Furbeck Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Wareham and Furbeck Rural District for the year 1939.

The report whilst similar in outline to those of previous years, is, in accordance with the directions of the relevant Ministry of Health Circulars, much curtailed.

The principal features of the year under review have been the approval of a sewerage scheme for West Lulworth, the adoption of a scheme for the immunisation of children against diphtheria, the suspension of work in dealing with unfit houses under the Housing Act, 1936, and the reception of evacuee children and parents into the district following the outbreak of war.

I should like to express my thanks to yourselves for your consideration and support, and to the Sanitary Inspectors for their co-operation and the efficient manner in which they have carried out their duties during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servant,

E. J. O'KEEFFE.

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

AREA. - 95,954 acres.

POPULATION. Registrar General's estimate of
 (a) Resident Population, Mid. 1939 16,840
 (b) Average Population appropriate to
 the calculation of death rates 16,820

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1939) according to the
 rate book 4,291
 Rateable value £74,215
 Sum represented by a penny rate £313.16s.5d.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>		
Live Births	254	124	130	) Birth rate per 1,000	
Legitimate	7	2	5	) estimated resident	
Illegitimate				) population ...	15.4
Still Births	10	4	6	) Rate per 1,000 (live	
				) and still) births	36.9
Deaths	188	92	96	) Death rate per 1,000	
				) estimated average	
				) population ...	11.1

Live Births. (For the purpose of calculation of infant and maternal mortality) :-

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Legitimate	260	127	133
Illegitimate	7	2	5

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's short list) :-

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29. Puerperal Sepsis.	Nil	Nil
No. 30. Other Puerperal		
causes	1	3.6
Total	1	3.6

Death rate of infants under one year of age :-

All infants per 1,000 live births	52.4
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	46.1
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	285.7

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	20
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (all ages) ...	Nil

Birth, Death, Infant and Maternal Mortality Rates
during the Year 1939.

	Births per 1,000 population		Deaths All Causes per 1,000 Population	Deaths under 1 year of age per 1,000	Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.		
	Live Births	Still Births		Live Births	Puerperal Sepsis.	Others	Total
England and Wales.	15.0	0.59	12.1	50	0.74	2.08	2.82
148 Smaller Towns estimated resident Population 25,000- 50,000 at 1931 Census.	15.6	0.57	11.2	40	Not available		
Wareham and Furbeck Rural District.	15.4	0.59	11.1	52.4	Nil	3.6	3.6

There were no specially noteworthy causes of sickness or invalidity during the year, nor any conditions of occupation or environment which would appear to have a prejudicial effect on health.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

There was no change during the year on the services provided in the area.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The sources of water supply to the area remain the same as in the previous year.

Samples of water were taken regularly from supplies for bacteriological examination.

Number of samples examined :-

Total No. of samples from Public Supplies and Wells	103
" " " " which gave satisfactory results	65
" " " " " " unsatisfactory results	38

Chloramination of the West Lulworth Supply was commenced during the year. Reports on samples of treated water were satisfactory.

Drainage and Sewerage.

A Ministry of Health Inquiry was held on the proposed sewerage scheme for West Lulworth on the 8th. February. The scheme was approved and work began on the 14th. August.

The proposed scheme for the sewerage of Corfe Castle was deferred owing to the outbreak of war.

Consideration of a sewerage scheme for other villages in the area had also to be postponed until after the war.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Total number of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,146
Number of informal notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
" " notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
" " statutory notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Mosquito Control.

Similar steps were taken in the Studland area as in previous years for the control of the mosquito nuisance.

Housing.

Total number of dwelling-houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	414
Number of inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	761
" " re-inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	347
" " informal notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
" " " " complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
" " statutory notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
" " demolition orders made	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
" " houses demolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
" " cottages reconditioned under Housing (Rural Workers) Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Total number of new houses erected by the Local Authority during 1939	...	...	...	...	...	...	47

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

Frequent visits were made to dairies and cowsheds in the district during the year.

243 dairy farms were inspected, six notices, all of which were complied with, were sent to owners of dairies in respect of defects.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

The following licences were in force at the end of the year :-

Pasteurising Establishments	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Accredited Milk Producers	...	...	...	...	...	...	77
Tuberculin Tested Milk Producers	...	...	...	...	...	...	16

Pasteurised Milk.

Regular visits were made to pasteurising and bottling establishments in the district.

Total samples of pasteurised milk taken	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Number of samples which passed the phosphatase test	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
" " " " failed to pass the phosphatase test	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of samples in which the bacteria per millilitre was more than 100,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Number of samples in which the bacteria per millilitre was not more than 100,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

Meat and Food Inspection.

Number of visits to slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	291
" " " " food preparing premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
" " " " bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	11

Total amount of meat condemned during the year was 2,138 lbs.

Alteration.

The following particulars of samples taken in the district under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 were supplied by the County Medical Officer :-

Description of Sample.	Number of samples obtained.	Number of samples reported against.
Boracic Ointment	1	-
Butter	1	-
Castor Oil	1	-
Cheese	1	-
Coffee	1	-
Custard Powder	1	-
Fish Paste	1	-
Flour	1	-
Fruit Sauce	1	-
Iodine, Tincture of.	2	2
Jam	1	-
Marmalade	1	-
Milk	24	2
Milk (Condensed)	1	-
Peas (Tinned)	1	-
Peas (Split)	1	-
Rice	2	-
Sago	1	-
Sausage	1	-
Sweets	1	-
Tea	1	-
Vinegar	1	-
Whisky	1	-
TOTALS	48	4

Action taken with regard to samples adversely reported upon :-

Iodine, Tincture of.

Informal sample. Deficient in iodine to the extent of 18.4% W/V.

Corresponding formal sample. Deficient in iodine to the extent of 4.9% W/V.

Seller cautioned.

Milk.

Informal sample. Deficient in fat to the extent of 10%.

Seller prosecuted - case dismissed.

Informal sample. Deficient in fat to the extent of 2%.

Seller cautioned.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During the month of May a mild form of diarrhoea with vomiting was prevalent in the district. The attack, which was very mild, lasted three days and affected mainly children, though a number of adults were attacked.

A minor outbreak of this illness was brought to my notice when visiting Kimmeridge School.

Investigations including bacteriological examinations and serological tests were carried out in an endeavour to discover the cause of the illness, but these gave negative results. Clinically the illness appeared to be a mild dysentery of the Sonne type.

The following are particulars of infectious diseases notified during the year :-

Disease	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	53	47	Nil
Diphtheria	7	7	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	1	Nil
Pneumonia	17	8	9
Measles	10	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	16	Nil	Nil
Erysipelas	5	Nil	Nil
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	1

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

Four hundred and seventy-nine parents replied to a questionnaire asking whether they would consent or not to having their children immunised against diphtheria if this were offered free by the Council. 83% of the parents indicated that they would consent.

The Council adopted a scheme for immunisation of children up to the age of 10 years against diphtheria free of charge, the immunisation to be carried out at the schools in the district, by the Medical Officer of Health. In addition prophylactic material was to be supplied free of charge to medical practitioners in the district.

The scheme was approved by the Minister of Health in December 1939.

Particulars of children from the Rural District immunised at the Wareham Borough Clinic :-

Number of children immunised	...	...	...	...	...	2
" " post immunisation schick tests				...	...	2
" " " " " " negative				...		2

A.F.T. was the prophylactic agent used. Only children under 5 years of age were immunised.

Tuberculosis.

No action was necessary during the year under Sec. 172 Public Health Act, 1936, or under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

Particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and of all deaths during 1939 :-

Age Periods		New Cases				Deaths			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...								
1	...			1				1	
5	...								
10	...			3	2			1	
15	...								
20	...								
25	...	1	1			1			
35	...	1	2	1					
45	...	1							
55	...	1							
65 and upwards	...	1	1		1				
Totals ...		5	4	5	3	1	-	2	-

All persons who died from tuberculosis had been previously notified as suffering from the disease.

Cases of tuberculosis remaining on the register of notifications on the 31st. December 1939 :-

Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total Cases
Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
19	15	32	8	10	18	50

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Four inspections of factories were made and one notice, which was complied with, was issued in respect of defective drainage.